

Message Text

SECRET

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16/46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 181048Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8597

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 3101

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

DEPT PASS TO OTHER INTERESTED POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, LA

SUBJECT: LA RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. I ASKED DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK THIS MORNING WHETHER HE FORESAW ANY CHANGES IN THE RELATIONSHIPS THE RLG HAD WITH AID DONOR COUNTRIES NOW THAT THE PGNU HAS BEEN FORMED. I MENTIONED TO HIM THAT I HAD BEEN INFORMED LAST WEEK BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT AID TO THE "OTHER ZONE" WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE GOVERNMENT AND I WONDERED WHETHER HE HAD GIVEN

ANY THOUGHT IN THE MANNER IN WHICH AID FOR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD BE HANDLED IF HENCEFORTH THEY PROVIDED AID TO LAOS AS A WHOLE.

2. SISOUK STATED THAT THE PATHET LAO MINISTER WERE STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND THEIR NEW JOBS AND THAT CONSIDERATION OF NEW ARRANGEMENTS WITH DONOR COUNTRIES

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WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL THEY LEARNED

SOMETHING ABOUT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS AND SOMETHING ABOUT THE WORLD BANK, ASIA DEVELOPOENT BANK, ETC. IN HIS VIEW, LAOS SHOULD CONVENE A MEETING OF DONOR COUNTRIES AT SOME FUTURE DATE AND SHOULD, AT THE SAME TIME, TRY TO GET ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS. HE SAID THAT LAOS HAD A PROMISE OF \$3 MILLION FROM SWEDEN AND THAT OTHER AID MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING FROM OTHER NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

3. I AGREED WITH SISOUK THAT CONSIDERATION OF THIS SITUATION MIGHT BE PREMATURE AND SAID THAT I INTENDED TO DISCUSS IT WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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